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# Policing vulnerable people and places when the entire population is vulnerable: Policing post-genocide Rwanda

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## CONTEXT:

The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda left the country devastated with no infrastructure, crime rampant, and no developed policing strategy. Yet just twenty one years later on looking at Gallup's Global Law and Order 2015 report conducted by interviewing over 142,000 individuals in 141 countries with at least 1,000 participants from each country, Rwanda is listed at joint 21st position worldwide in terms of overall law and order at 80% (5 places higher than the UK on 79%), including joint 4th position overall (along with Indonesia and Spain) for citizen perceived safety walking at night (on 85%) behind only Hong Kong, Singapore, and Norway.

**Population:** Approximately 12.5 million (UK 64.6 million) (7.2million in 1990 prior to civil war then genocide – 5.6million in 1995 directly after genocide) Population growth boom period 1996-2001 (as high as 10.8% growth (700,000 increase) in one year (1998), since then stabilised at approximately 2-3% population growth per year over past decade between 2005-2015 (UK over same period population growth on average 0.5 – 0.8% per year). 20 year growth from 5.6million (1995) – 12.5million (2015) (123% population increase) compared to UK – 58 million (1995) – 64.6 million (2015) (11.4% population increase)

**Life expectancy:** 58 (56.6 for male, 59.5 for female) (UK 80.1 – 78 male / 82.3 female)

**Gender Split:** 49.1% male / 50.9% female (UK – 49.2% male / 50.8% female)

**Age:** 42.9% population under 15 (UK – 17.3%) 54.7% 15-64 (UK – 66.2%) 2.4% 65+ (UK – 16.5%)

**Rwanda National Police (RNP) History:** From late 1994 until 2000 various different police forces and strategies were implemented, some with greater success than others. After detailed investigation and analysis of policing effectiveness the Rwanda National Police was established in 2000 to include personnel from Communal Police previously under the Ministry of Local Administration, the Gendarmerie Nationale previously under the Ministry of Defence, and the Judicial Police previously under the Ministry of Justice.



## PILLARS OF INTERNAL SECURITY POLICY:

Strong patriotism whereby general interest comes before personal interests, fighting poverty in households, capacity building and skills upgrading and improved equipment for the National Police and National Prisons Service, respect of law and order by every person, cooperation between institutions and countries, punctuality, transparency and rapidity with utmost performance of individual responsibilities

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA OF 04/06/2003, ARTICLE 170 & 171:

### **Art.170: RNP Fundamental Principles:**

- Safeguarding the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution - and the Law;
- Harmonious collaboration between the National Police and the - community which it serves;
- Accountability of the National Police to the community;-
- Informing the population on how the Police are fulfilling their – mission

### **Art.171: RNP Core Values:**

- Justice and respect for human rights, including gender sensitivity
- Integrity
- Stability and social order
- Teamwork and partnership
- Openness
- Accountability
- Community relations focus
- Professional conduct, efficiency and effectiveness

## VISION & MISSION OF THE RNP:

**V:** Make the people living in Rwanda feel safe, involved and reassured.

**M:** The Rwanda National Police is dedicated to deliver high quality service, accountability, transparency, safeguard the rule of law, and strive to provide a safe and secure environment for all.



## PROFESSIONALISATION OF POLICING:

National Police College and offer qualifications to instil the knowledge base required in order to effectively police such a complex region. Degree programmes include;

- Bachelors degree in Police Professional Studies (in partnership with University of Rwanda – College of Education, and Teeside University, UK)
- Masters degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation (in partnership with University of Rwanda – College of Arts and Social Sciences, and the College of Policing, UK)

## COMMUNITY POLICING:

Partnership between the police and community to address the causes of crime and social disorder through problem solving tactics. Style that doesn't see the community as a mere source of information; it is a more proactive system of policing. Through Community Policing Committees (CPCs), the police work closely with sector leaders in addressing people's daily challenges, with police facilitating and enforcing the law in an environment that does not negatively affect the people. Currently there are about 80,000 members of CPCs across Rwanda who have been given training and dedicated mobile phones that can be used to provide timely information. Attempts to reverse misconceptions that the police are a punitive force, and that citizens have little say in the policing of their communities. It seeks to foster positive police-community relations, empower citizens, and reduce crime.

The RNP has a strong focus on human security, and helping to eliminate poverty and food insecurity. As part of this they have supported approximately 1,000 vulnerable families by paying for their medical insurance, and assisting with anti-malaria strategies by providing mosquito nets. As well as this, the RNP work with communities in the construction of houses for poor families.

## TACKLING SEXUAL & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV):

In 2009, the RNP established the 'Isange', which in Kinyarwanda means 'feel at home'. This is a unit that was initially housed within the Kacyiru Police Hospital and is a one-stop centre for sufferers of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Within the centre there are gynaecological & Obstetrics, Mental Health, Social, Psychosocial, investigative, and legal services. In addition there are 'safe rooms' in which victims can stay for short periods and receive shelter, clothing, and food. Following initial success, the Isange has now been scaled up to be included within all thirty district hospitals in Rwanda, and has helped over 7,000 cases of SGBV since its establishment. In 2012, the initiative won the United Nations Public Service Award for 'Promoting Gender Responsive Delivery'.